THE STAR AND BANNER.

GETTYSBURG,

Friday Evening, March 9, 1855.

Blank Deeds.

☞We have just printed another lot of superior BLANK DEEDS, on heavy white parchment, Common and Judgment Bonds, and Blanks for Justices use.

THE FIRST OF APRIL.—Those of our subscribers who contemplate changing their residence on or about the first of April will please to inform us as to the new direction of their papers.

☞A bill passed both Houses of the Legislature last week, authorizing the election of two Constables in Gettysburg. The election for Borough and township officers throughout the county takes place on Friday next.

ANOTHER.—On Saturday morning last, before daylight, the north gable of Mr. Wagner's Foundry was discovered to be on fire. The alarm was given, and our citizens again started from their slumbers. The fire, however, was extinguished without doing material damage—some six or eight feet of the end of the Foundry being burnt out. On the previous afternoon, the moulders had been casting, and one of the flasks exploded, scattering the hot iron in different directions. It is supposed that one of the pieces lodged in the frame work at the north end of the Foundry, and by slow combustion prepared the way for the fire of the next morning.

Exhibition of the Hunterstown Literary Institute.

☞This will be an Exhibition by the young gentlemen connected with the above Institute in the Academy at Hunterstown on Tuesday evening the 20th inst., when a number of original and selected speeches will be delivered. The exercises promise to be unusually interesting. The Berlin Brass Band will be present.

☞The Bribery Investigating Committee are still at work at Harrisburg.—Among the witnesses examined by the Committee, a week or two ago, was Gen. WM. F. WALTER, of this place, who produced a curious document, of which the following is said to be a true copy. It seems that Gen. WALTER, while at Harrisburg, was requested to transcribe a letter to be sent to a certain member of the Senate, and that he took the precaution to make a copy for himself. It is, to say the least, a "curious" document. We omit the name of the Senator for the present.—Ed.

HARRISBURG, SATURDAY MORNING.

Friend Walter, Esq.:—Last night Mr. Rigler handed me your check for $900, for which you pledged yourself to do certain things. Now these things were done before Mr. Myers is entitled to the money; but, sir, you will remember you made the proposition. Now, sir, Dr. Jayne requisitions and condemns this transaction. Now, I have received the money, but I desire you to return $400 to Mr. Herr, before 12 o'clock to-day—the $500 you can retain. There may not be any reason why I should ask this favor, but another and more effectual means of redress. I make no comments on your conduct, suffice it to say, I expect you will act in patience to hear from you or Mr. Herr.

Respectfully, D. R. PATTEN

☞Last week Mr. M'CLEAN presented three petitions from citizens of York and Adams counties, asking that banking privileges be conferred upon the "Hanover Saving Fund Society," under the name and title of the "Hanover Bank." Also, a remonstrance of citizens of Hampton School District, in the county of Adams, against the repeal of the 52d section of the School Law of 8th April, 1854, so far as regards said District.

☞We are indebted to LIPPINCOTT, Grambo & Co., Philadelphia, for a copy of "*The Sons of the Sires*," a neatly printed volume, containing a history of the rise, progress, and destiny of the American Party, with speculations as to the probable influence of that party on the next Presidential election; to which is added a review of the letter of Henry A. Wise against the Know Nothings. As this is *the question* of the day, the book will have a large sale. We have not had leisure to examine the book throughout, but it gives evidence of ability and throws some light upon the great American movement. The review of Wise is severe and caustic.—For sale by KELLER KURTZ, Gettysburg.

☞The Annual Commencement of the Medical Department of Pennsylvania College took place in Philadelphia on Saturday last. The degree of M. D. was conferred on 33 graduates by Dr. BUCHANAN, President of Pennsylvania College. Professor ALLEN delivered the valedictory address—a highly polished and elegant effort, for a copy of which we are indebted to a friend.

☞We acknowledge the receipt of a Prospectus of Lutherville Female Seminary, near Baltimore City, Md." This is a new institution, opened in October last, under very flattering auspices. The Board of Trustees have erected large and handsome buildings on a commanding site, some ten or twelve miles from Baltimore, facing the Baltimore and Susquehanna railroad, and have secured the services of an efficient corps of instructors. Dr. MOSES, of Baltimore, to whose energy the Seminary mainly owes its existence, has infused into the enterprise a life and spirit that will make it succeed. The patronage of the enlightened and liberal public, and the terms reasonable.

☞The Pacific Railroad bill, which passed the United States Senate, stuck fast in the House.

The Railroad Meeting on Tuesday last.

☞By the official proceedings of the meeting of the Stockholders of the Gettysburg Railroad Company, held on Tuesday last, it will be seen that it was recommended to accept Mr. O'RILEY's proposition, as soon as $120,000 subscription shall have been secured. This we regard as an important, and it may be a decisive, step in the progress of this enterprise. The difficulties and confusion incident to the agitation of rival routes, temporary expedients, &c., are now removed, and we have at least a glimmering of light ahead.—There is now one plain proposition before the people. Mr. O'RILEY proposes to build the Railroad as soon as $120,000 in cash subscriptions shall have been secured;—he agreeing to find the balance, and run the risk of making the interest of his investment out of the working of the Road. That is a plain, square-up proposition—and it now remains for our people to say whether the $120,000 shall be raised or not.—About $90,000 have already been subscribed, leaving but $22,000 to be raised. Will our people hesitate under an issue of that kind? A number of our farmers have done nobly—but there are hundreds who have yet given little or nothing—and who are just as deeply interested in having the railroad as those who have given? Will they hesitate now to come forward promptly, when the alternative is presented to them as Railroad—or we believe that to be the real issue. What say our friends at Oxford, New Chester, Hampton, Berlin, and all that rich and enterprising region, as directly interested in the enterprise as any other portion of the county? Let this proposition fall now, and you may never again have an opportunity of getting a rail-road depot so near your doors. Don't listen to any of those idle and visionary expositions which have so long been presented, this week, and paralyzing the energy of its friends. Address yourself to the proposition now before you as a plain and practical one. If you want the advantages of a railroad and are willing to give $120,000 to secure one, say so and so it. We have had enough and more than enough of talking and theorizing, and speculating on this subject, and should like to see some work in the future.

And here, we take the liberty of saying to the Board of Managers—that the acceptance of this proposition, submitted and urged upon the stockholders by the Board itself, devolves upon you a responsible duty. This additional subscription cannot be secured by the efforts of the company. It quietly folding their arms and waiting for the "moving of the waters." There is work ahead—*hard work*—and you, as the controlling agency in this enterprise, are the parties who must do it. We are well aware of the difficulties and embarrassments incident to the discharge of duties which are yours. But we take it, that the acceptance of the proposition you carried with it the power to act, within certain limits, promptly and cheerfully and bravely. The more embarrassment, the greater the credit, and the deeper the gratitude, when the work is done.

☞Congress adjourned about noon on Sunday last, having been in session during the whole of the previous night. A number of bills were lost, as usual, in the confusion incident to the closing up of legislative bodies. The proposition to repeal the Tariff which the House had tacked to the general Appropriation bill, was defeated in the Senate, the friends of the Tariff, threatening to debate the bill until the hour of adjournment, sooner than see the iron interest prostrated. Mr. COOPER made an able and effective speech against it. The Senate agreed to strike out the Tariff amendment, rather than stop the wheels of Government by defeat of the Appropriation bill. So that the Tariff is safe for another year. For a sketch of the closing scenes of Congressional life, see the letter of our Washington correspondent, who pays a merited tribute to the fidelity of our Member, Mr. RUSSELL has discharged his duties faithfully and with acceptance to his district. During the memorable Nebraska struggle he was at his post night and day, manfully battling with the friends of Freedom, and always voting RIGHT. Had all the Pennsylvania members been as true to Freedom, that outrage would never have been consummated.

A correspondent of the New York Tribune gives the following incident:

"Old Bullion" was characteristic to the last. On Sunday morning, about 10 o'clock, he came into the House just within the door, without taking his hat off, and finding business still going on, proclaimed in a loud voice: "I am now an ex-member of Congress, sir, one of the people, sir, and I protest against this usurpation, sir, this violation of the Constitution, sir." The Speaker remarked: "If the gentleman is an ex-member he will please step out of the floor of the House." "I want you, sir," said the Colonel, "I will spot you in my next volume." When Sidney Webster rose to write the vote on the Collins Bill, the old man shook him violently by the hand, saying: "Tell the President he has covered himself with glory; tell him to keep on hand a full supply of blank vetoes for the sake of this d—d corrupt Congress."

☞Last week President PIERCE, in compliance with the act recently passed by Congress, nominated General Windfield Scott, of the Army of the United States, to be Lieutenant General by brevet in the same, for eminent services in the late war with Mexico, to take rank as such from March 29, 1847, the day on which the United States forces, under his command, possessed Vera Cruz and the Castle of San Juan de Ulloa. The nomination was unanimously confirmed by the United States Senate.

THE OSTEND CONFERENCE.

BOLD AND INFORTANT RECOMMENDATION.

Cuba at any Cost!

The report of the secret "Know-Nothing" Conference held at Ostend in October last, by Messrs. Buchanan, Mason, and Soule, has been published, together with the correspondence with Secretary Marcy. They disclose a bold and startling recommendation of national outrage and wrong, which but for the prudence of Secretary Marcy, would inevitably have involved the country in a war with the great powers of Europe, and have precipitated a disastrous agitation in our own Republic.

The conference was preceded by a correspondence consisting of letters from Mr. Marcy to Mr. Soule and Mr. Buchanan, extending from July, 1853, to August 10, 1854. In the letter of that date to Mr. Soule, Mr. Marcy suggests a meeting of the three gentlemen at some convenient place, that they may consult together and adopt measures for perfect concert of action in aid of the negotiations of Mr. Soule at Madrid. The ministers selected Ostend, in Belgium, at which place the first consultation was held. They subsequently met at Aix La Chapelle, at which they concluded their deliberations, and thence they addressed to this government a full report of their views and recommendations. The length of the report and correspondence with the Department of State, precludes their publication in our columns. We give, however, the closing paragraphs of the report of views filibustering gentlemen, who recommend the forcible seizure of Cuba by our Government, in case of failure to purchase, on precisely the same principle that the highway robber would compel his victim—because he wants the treasure! The report argues at length the importance of Cuba to this country, and urges its purchase from Spain at any price not exceeding —— dollars. The following is the closing paragraph (which is understood to be $120,000,000.—In case of a refusal by Spain to sell—what then? Here we have the answer:

"But if Spain, deaf to the voice of her own interest, and actuated by stubborn pride and a false sense of honor, should refuse to sell Cuba to the United States, then the question will arise, what ought to be the course of the American Government under such circumstances?

Self-preservation is the first law of nature with States as well as with individuals. All nations have at different periods acted upon this maxim. Although it has been made the pretext for committing flagrant injustice, as in the partition of Poland and the late dismemberment of Turkey records, yet the principle itself, though often abused, has always been recognized as just.

The United States have never acquired a foot of territory except by fair purchase, or in the case of Texas, upon the free and voluntary application of the people of that independent State, who designed to unite themselves with our own.

Even our requisitions from Mexico are no exception to the rule, because although they compelled us to make those cessions of conquest, in a just way, yet we purchased them for what was then considered by both parties a full and ample equivalent.

Our past history forbids that we should acquire the Island of Cuba without the consent of Spain, unless justified by the law of self-preservation. We must, in any event, preserve our own conscious rectitude and our own self-respect.

Whilst pursuing this course, we can afford to disregard the censures of the world, to which we have been so often and so unjustly exposed.

After we shall have offered Spain a price for Cuba far beyond its present value, and this shall have been refused, it will then be time to consider the question, does Cuba from its situation, endanger our peace and the existence of our cherished Union?

Should the question be answered in the affirmative, then, by every law, human and divine, we shall be justified in wresting it from Spain, if we possess the power. And this power we may safely calculate that would justify an individual in tearing down the burning house of his neighbor if there was no other means of preventing the flames from destroying his own dwelling.

Under such circumstances we might neither to count the cost nor regard the sacrifices which our act of violence would cost us. We forbear to enter into the question whether the present condition of the Island would justify such a measure. We should, however, be recreant to our duty, be unworthy of our gallant forefathers, and contemptible in the estimation of our posterity, should we permit Cuba to be Africanized and become a second St. Domingo, with its African race in full ascendancy, in our vicinity, and suffer the flames to extend to our neighboring shores, to seriously endanger or actually to consume the fair fabric of our Union.

We fear that the course and current of events are rapidly tending towards such a catastrophe. We, however, hope for the best, though we ought certainly be prepared for the worst.

We forbear also to investigate the present condition of the question at issue between our Government and Spain. A long series of injuries to our people have been committed in Cuba by Spanish officials, and unpunished. This, indeed, is a most flagrant outrage on the rights of American citizens and on the flag of the United States as represented in the harbor of Havana, under circumstances which, without immediate redress, would have justified a resort to measures of war in vindication of national honor. That outrage is not only unatoned, but the Spanish government has even countenanced the doers of its subordinates, and so aimed the responsibility attaching to them.

Nothing could more impressively teach us the danger to which those peaceful relations it has ever been the policy of the United States to cherish with Spain, relations are constantly exposed, than the circumstances of that case—situated as Spain and the United States are, the latter having fortborne to resort to extreme measures.

But this course cannot, with due regard to their own dignity as an independent nation, continue much longer, our remonstrances now submitted are dictated by the firm belief that the cession of Cuba to the United States, with stipulations as beneficial to Spain as those suggested, is the only effectual mode of settling all past difficulties and of securing the two countries against future collisions.

We have already witnessed the happy results for both countries which followed a similar arrangement in regard to Florida.

Yours, very respectfully,

(Signed) JAMES BUCHANAN,
JOHN Y. MASON,
PIERRE SOULE.

To these outrageous recommendations Mr. MARCY replied in a long and ably written letter, taking decided ground against the opinions advanced by Messrs. MASON, BUCHANAN and SOULE, and directing Mr. SOULE to retrace his ground, and resume negotiations at Madrid upon the most peaceable basis. To this Mr. SOULE replied in a brief note, stating that the instructions thus communicated were of so extraordinary a character—so totally at variance with the whole previous policy of the administration, and disregardful of the humiliating position he would be compelled to assume when he carry them out, that self-respect left him but one course to pursue, and he accordingly tendered his resignation.

So far good. But we think it would be better if permission were given to Mr. SOULE's buccaneering colleagues also to return home.

The new Bounty Land Bill.

☞In order to show the quantity of public lands which will be necessarily consumed under the new Bounty Land bill, we copy from the Washington Union the following table showing the quantity of warrants of a few days previous to the passage of the report of views filibustering gentlemen, who recommend the forcible seizure of Cuba by our Government, in case of failure to purchase, on precisely the same principle that the highway robber would compel his victim—because he wants the treasure! The report argues at length the importance of Cuba to this country, and urges its purchase from Spain at any price not exceeding —— dollars. The following is the closing paragraph (which is understood to be $120,000,000.—In case of a refusal by Spain to sell—what then? Here we have the answer:

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The Sunday Liquor Law.

☞Governor Pollock has signed the Sunday Liquor Law—it will take effect on the first of April. Under this law any tavern keeper, beer house keeper, tippling shop, or keeper of any eating house, who sells or knowingly permits any spirituous or malt liquors, wine or cider, to be drunk on his premises, on Sunday, can be fined $10 dollars—one half to the informer and the other half to the overseer of the poor.—The violator may also in addition to the above penalty, be prosecuted for a misdemeanor, and be fined not less than $10 nor more than $100, and be imprisoned from 10 to 60 days. This will do for the Sunday traffic—now let us have the Maine Law for the other six days. It is no more severe than the other.

Bank of Gettysburg.

The following exhibits the state of the Bank of Gettysburg, being the report made by the Cashier to the Auditor General, in November last:

Dr.	Nov. 6, 1854.
To Capital,	$112,500 00
Bank notes issued,	3,940 05
Bank notes under act May, 1841,	1,249 00
Due to other banks,	4,077 91
Due to depositors,	33,660 19
Dividends unpaid,	1,653 88
Discounts received and rents,	12,116 63
Contingent fund,	5,279 53
	175,244 24
Cr.	Nov. 6, 1854.
By bills discounted,	$137,853 09
Specie, silver and gold,	63,145 80
Notes and checks of other banks,	10,490 00
Due from other banks,	22,901 67
Judgments,	38,115 00
Real estate,	5,915 00
Stocks, State and county,	25,129 00
Stocks under act 1841,	1,249 00
Bonds and mortgages,	10,001 05
Expenses,	847 25
	275,244 24
Dividends declared since last sett'm. Nov. 7,	$3,716 19

FROM WASHINGTON.

[*Correspondence of the Star and Banner.*

Washington, March 2, 1855.

Hall of the House of Representatives.

MESSRS. EDITORS:—Yesterday I was over here by "five" and "fives" to witness the closing scenes of the 33d Congress. By the kindness of a friend I am now on the floor of the House, amid such a scene and such noises as it is seldom the privilege of quiet people to happen on. It would be a rare experience to a plain farmer to find himself just here. With his lifelong respect for the laws of his country, and the imagined dignity of its law-makers, the spectacle and the sound that would break upon him would most certainly and most suddenly open his eyes. He would find seated around him, in a semi-circular Hall, more than 200 well-dressed men, some youthful, some with heads white with age, but the most in the prime of life. Around this hall more than twenty graceful columns of Potomac marble rise, sustaining a beautiful vaulted dome; from the centre of which a brilliant chandelier is suspended, lighting up as with the blaze of midday the scene before and around him. Upon an elevation in the back ground, hung with rich crimson curtains, is standing a person (to whom we recognize the Speaker) with a mallet in his hand, with which he is raping violently, and is calling in a powerful voice, which can scarcely be heard, however, "Order! order! Will gentlemen resume their seats! Order! order in the Hall!" It seems as if the whole body of members had risen to their feet, one, and fifty or more are crying out at the top of their voices, so that the confusion beggars all power of description—amid which the only words that may be distinguished are, "Mr. Speaker!" "Mr. Speaker!" Rap, rap, goes the hammer, louder and louder—"Order! order, gentlemen! Order! gentlemen must be seated! Order! order!" Rap, rap, rap!—members here and there are gesticulating most violently and most extravagantly. And this, says the amazed spectator, is a deliberative assembly! This is the place where they make the laws! Where! and just here the speaker's voice is heard, "Aye! aye! as many as are in favor of the amendment will say aye"—and a tremendous aye, like an explosion of cannon, stuns his ears; and then a roar of of "noes" follows louder, if possible. The amendment is to vote to the members copies of a book, (Willey's Exploring Expedition,) published at a cost to the Government of nearly one hundred thousand dollars. Of course it is adopted by an overwhelming majority—almost unanimous. "Order, gentlemen! order! order!"—rap, rap, rap—"order! order!"—and then comes vote after vote, upon amendment after amendment, until one hundred scarcely numbers them—Thousand after thousand, and then fives and tens and hundreds of thousands of dollars are voted to be appropriated, until, as they grow and are piled one upon another, they count millions upon millions! The amazed spectator, amid this scene, exclaims, "Why, is this the way they throw away the people's money? Is this the way they throw away the people's money? Is this the way they throw away the people's money? Why, what is the matter? Is anybody crazy? Is anybody in a fit? Is anybody in a dream? Certainly "Sam" must have his breeches pockets and his coat pockets chuck full of gold, and bags of it in the big chest and California besides, to fall back upon—and will even that last, at this rate?" he asks himself as he involuntary rams his hands into his pockets, deeper and deeper. The private Secretary of the President enters the Hall, with the message communicating the veto of the Collins Bill. Appropriation is produced, and a stirring scene ensues. Violent speeches, full of indignation, are made—and a motion is offered to adjourn, sine die, leaving the appropriation bill and other important bills, unpassed—a proceeding which would have stopped the wheels of government. But better counsels govern, and the motion, amid great confusion, fails. This on—out of the repeated voices of "order, order," strange to say, is *right* one, such as all good citizens should approve. The opinion prevails widely that large sums of money were used upon members by Collins and Co., in order to put the Bill through—and it passed the House with a rush. But such unscrupulous proceedings generally transpire and meet with an indignant public reprobation, such as in this case will sustain the President—and effectually scotch the Bills. An attempt to pass it in the Senate against the veto, failed. Its fate is sealed. There need be no sorrow over its death.

The great interests of Pennsylvania have been in danger for some time past. A further reduction of the tariff was improperly attached to the Appropriation Bill in the House. This was in violation of the Rules, and would have been a most mischievous measure. The Senate, at last, seriously erred. But the Senate, fearful of the possible use of such a precedent if established, struck off this "snake." Southern Senators foresaw that if the fiscal appropriation bill was thus employed, again southern interests might be overrun and trodden upon, by the North and West attaching to a similar appropriation bill, a restoration of the Missouri Compromise, and a repeal of the Kansas-Nebraska act; and the same Congress should insist upon adhering to such an amendment, the Administration might be placed in just such a straight that it must swallow the bitter pill, or by the application of the veto, stop the wheels of Government. They passed it intact. But it was thought that when the bill came back to the House, another effort would be made to foist upon the bill this free-trade abortion. It was with no little interest then that I watched for the denouement. The civil and diplomatic appropriation bill had, however, swelled to most huge proportions when it was returned from the Senate. Of hundred amendments engrossed on it the House Committee had only time to report on some forty. The rest were thrown into the chaos of the last hours of the session, like the bones from a hotel table, thrown into the pack that hangs about its kitchen. Pell mell they came, and the night had well nigh worn away when the last had been passed upon and reported from the Committee of the Whole. The Bill then reported, the confusion became intensified. It appeared sickly pleasing now amongst the breakers. At this juncture Breckenridge, of Kentucky, appeared as the master spirit. Amid storms of confusion the House at length insisted upon its disagreements with the Senate, and appointed a joint committee of Conference. The committee of Conference was carried.

It was after a great struggle and very great perseverance and skill that this was accomplished, together with a motion to adopt, by one vote, en masse, all the amendments which had been concurred in in Committee of the Whole, except some five or six which were reserved for separate action. Thus the work of days, in the ordinary course, was concentrated into an hour or two. The power of one man, or rather of one *mind*, over a mass of excited minds was beautifully demonstrated. And yet another reflection very naturally obtrudes itself, and that is the extreme haste thus exhibited in the legislation of a great country—the model Republic—The Appropriation bills which were rushed through in the last hours of this Congress, disposed of some fifty-five millions of the people's money.

One of the amendments reserved for separate action was in relation to the Tariff. The House concurred with the Senate in rejecting the proposed reduction of the Tariff. Thus have we escaped, for this session, the Pennsylvania bill. Pennsylvania to her Representatives in both the House and the Senate.

Another of the amendments was to make the usual appropriation to the Collins line of ocean steamships without the objectionable proviso which provoked the veto. It was adopted.

After the Committee of Conference on the disagreement of the House with amendments of the Senate, had been appointed and retired, the struggle for the passage of private bills commenced with increased furor, and no language can adequately express the noise and confusion. At one moment, with one impulse, fifty, one hundred, and sometimes it seemed one hundred members would be on their feet, with bills in their hands, each shouting at the top of his voice—"Mr. Speaker! Mr. Speaker!" The strap rap! of the Speaker's hammer, would sometimes for a moment, quiet the clamor, when they yesterday received a letter per the North Star, from the Sandwich Islands, dated the 3d of January, stating that the Sandwich Islands are now in a state of siege and that the Sandwich Islands are now in a state of siege and that the Sandwich Islands are now in a state of siege and